

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO OFFERS SPECIALIST SERVICE TO STUDY

CAUSES AND DAMAGE IN THE WAKE OF GUATEMALA

EARTHQUAKE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY  
UNESCO ON FEB 11, 1976:

QUOTE: MR. AMADOU-MAHTAR M'BOW, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF  
UNESCO, HAS OFFERED THE SERVICES OF FOUR SPECIALISTS TO  
THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE  
WHICH DE U STATED SEVERAL PARTS OF THAT COUNTRY ON 4  
FEBRUARY. FIELDS IN WHICH THEY WILL OPERATE ARE  
ENGINEERING, SCHOOL BUILDING, SEISMOLOGY AND THE  
RESTORATION OF MONUMENTS. THEY WILL STUDY THE CAUSES OF  
AND REPORT ON DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE DISASTER.

UNESCO'S DIVISION OF EARTH SCIENCES HAS ALSO  
CALLED ON THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR SEISMOLOGY IN LATIN  
AMERICA - AN INSTITUTION CREATED BY UNESCO, NOW OPERATING  
OUT OF LIMA, PERU, AS AN AUTONOMOUS INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATION - TO PREPARE A TEAM OF ENGINEERS AND  
SEISMOLOGISTS TO MAKE AN ON-THE-SPOT ANALYSIS OF THE  
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CAUSES OF THE SHOCK AS WELL AS THE MAGNITUDE OF THE

DAMAGE. THE REPORT OF THIS MISSION WILL ESTABLISH, AS ONE SHORT-TERM EFFECT, THE VALIDITY OF CERTAIN THEORIES ON ANTI-SEISMIC CONSTRUCTION AND, IN THE LONGER TERM, SAFETY STANDARDS TO BE ADOPTED IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CITY.

THIS MAKES THE 17TH EMERGENCY MISSION SENT OUT BY THE DIVISION OF EARTH SCIENCES TO REGIONS THAT HAVE SUFFERED SEISMOLOGICAL CATASTROPHES AND BOTH THE ORGANIZATION'S EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES (SCHOOL BUILDING) SECTION AND ITS DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE (RESTORATION OF MONUMENTS) PROPOSE TO SEND OUT EXPERTS TO DETERMINE THE NATURE OF THE DAMAGE AND THE COUNTRY'S IMMEDIATE NEEDS IN THESE AREAS.

MORE THAN 150 SPECIALISTS FROM SOME 50 COUNTRIES WILL MEET AT UNESCO'S PARIS HEADQUARTERS FROM 10 TO 19 FEBRUARY FOR AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON THE ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION OF EARTHQUAKE RISK. AMONG OTHER ITEMS, THEY WILL EXAMINE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING AS WELL AS THE URBAN AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF EARTHQUAKES. END QUOTE.

2. FOREGOING STRIKES PERMDEL AS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT AND TOPICAL EXAMPLE OF RESPONSE THAT CAN ANSWER QUERIES RE "WHAT DOES UNESCO DO?", I.E. UNESCO CAN MOBILIZE SOURCES OF EXPERT ADVICE AND GUIDANCE FOR PLANNING EFFORTS TO MEMBER STATES.  
RUSH

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